

always available with an encouraging word or fresh perspective. Since 2004, he has served as the Medical Director of the Wound Center at Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital, where he also served on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007.

Dr. Short has an established career which included serving as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Lewisville Memorial Hospital, Flow Memorial Hospital and Denton Community Hospital. Committed to his field, he was affiliated with the J.B. Aust Surgical Society, the Texas Medical Society and served as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, as well as President of the Denton County Medical Society.

Dr. Short's legacy extends beyond his contributions as a surgeon. His support of the arts went beyond his interests in reading, music, and history. Arvin Short was also an accomplished writer, poet and playwright. His works include the published novel, "Reckoning", the award winning play, "The Call Room," and numerous other short stories, novels and poems. A philanthropist, Dr. Short served on the Board of Directors of the Denton Community Theatre and received the Greater Denton Arts Council Community Arts Recognition Award in 1991.

Through all his service as surgeon, artist, and philanthropist, Dr. Short was known first as a family man. His real love being his wife Carol, his sons, his daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to join his family, friends and colleagues in honoring the life of Dr. Arvin Short. His legacy as family man, surgeon and artist is one that will endure for years to come. I am honored to have known him and represented him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING ELLIOT L. LUONI

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Elliot L. Luoni of Massachusetts. Elliot celebrates his 100th birthday today, March 14.

An avid musician and former professional drummer, Elliot has entertained young and old on cruise ships across the Atlantic. His sharp talent has given him a place in history; he has performed with the likes of Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra.

A hero of his community, he was present at the infamous Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, Massachusetts on November 28, 1942 when disaster struck. Tragically, 492 people lost their lives in a building fire that night—many of them young soldiers celebrating a night off duty. Without hesitation, Elliot organized transportation for the injured to the nearest hospital. The families of the Cocoanut Grove fire survivors have Elliot to thank for his selflessness.

No one appreciates Elliot more than his three children, nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren—sweet reminders of his fifty-five year marriage to the lovely Elsa Luoni.

I extend my happiest wishes to Elliot on his 100th birthday, and I wish him the best of health and happiness in many more to come.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH MELENICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joseph Melenick, a 17 year-old man who has dedicated his adolescence to finding a cure for Crohn's disease.

Five years ago, Joe was diagnosed with Crohn's disease, a disorder that causes swelling in the digestive tract, severe pain, and gastrointestinal complications. Since being diagnosed, Joe has remained committed to raising money to find a cure for the disease, to helping others with his condition, and to keep fighting for the benefit of others.

On his twelfth birthday, Joe decided to host a fundraiser at a bowling alley, with the hope of raising \$1,000 for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation for research. With over 100 participants in the fundraiser, Joe well surpassed his goal and raised approximately \$4,700. Since that first fundraiser, he has made this an annual event and has raised close to \$50,000.

In addition to his annual bowling fundraiser, Joe often speaks to groups in the Cleveland area about the disease and how he copes. His presentations show the group that they are not alone in battling this terrible disease, and that there is hope for a cure.

Joe has facilitated other events to raise awareness and gather donations for the foundation in collaboration with a team he formed, called the "GI Joes." Events include a 2-mile walk around Progressive Field with the Bay High School drum line and the GI Joes. The team has collected sponsorships from local companies, friends, families and concerned citizens.

As a result of his hard work and dedication to finding a cure for the disease, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation chose him as the 2010 Honored Hero for the Cleveland area. In addition, Joe was recently named one of the top two youth volunteers for 2011 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Joseph Melenick as he strives to raise funds for finding a cure for Crohn's disease, and for acting as a role model for Cleveland's young people.

THE PREVENT LOCKOUT OF
ATHLETES THIS YEAR ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce H.R. _____, the PLAY Act. This bill will ensure that a congressionally granted antitrust immunity is never again misused to build up an improper "war chest" to gain leverage in a football lockout and put our nation's most popular sport at risk.

An independent United States District Judge recently found that the NFL acted in bad faith by negotiating broadcast contracts ensuring the league would be paid even if it locked out players. In other words, the league manipulated broadcast negotiations to maximize its ability to force and win a lockout, and did so—

in the Court's words—"to advance its own interests and harm the interests of the players."

Those flawed negotiations were conducted under the protective umbrella of the antitrust immunity given to football by the Congress. Accordingly, the PLAY Act would strip this immunity from professional football so it can never be misused in this way again.

FURTHER BACKGROUND

The Sports Broadcast Act of 1961. Under the Sports Broadcast Act of 1961, the four major United States sports currently enjoy immunity from our antitrust laws so they can negotiate league wide broadcast contracts. Without this immunity, the antitrust laws could limit league competitors from jointly negotiating these deals. And potentially anti-competitive provisions of the broadcast pacts such as overly extended blackout territories could be subject to antitrust scrutiny.

Broadcast revenue is critical to the National Football League and its players. According to recent court testimony of Commissioner Roger Goodell, "broadcast contracts generate approximately half of the NFL's total revenues"—or over \$4 billion per year. This revenue is critical to the players as well as the league and its owners, as it forms the heart of the shared revenue pool that is used for health and other benefits, as well as salaries.

Congress—and the House Judiciary Committee in particular—has long been vigilant in the exercise of its antitrust jurisdiction regarding the economic impact of major sports business on America's communities, in particular taking action in the wake of a professional sports work stoppage.

In 1994, following the baseball strike, the Judiciary Committee under Chairman Brooks held hearings and passed legislation partially repealing baseball's antitrust exemption, which culminated four years later in the enactment of the Curt Flood Act. In 1996, after the Browns left Cleveland, the Committee, under Chairman Hyde, again considered legislation and held antitrust hearings. In 2001, under Chairman Sensenbrenner, after Major League Baseball announced the possible contraction and elimination of the Minnesota Twins franchise, we conducted hearings on antitrust legislation that I introduced.

Bad Faith Contract Re-negotiations. In May 2008, the National Football League re-negotiated its contracts with the major broadcasters who televise professional football. While the particulars of these negotiations varied, in all or most cases, the district court's opinion describes how the league insisted on provisions that would shield it from the economic impact of a lock out.

In response, the National Football League Players' Association (at the time, the certified bargaining representative for NFL Players), petitioned the United States District Court overseeing the league's collective bargaining relationship with its players for a declaration that the league's approach to the negotiations violated its contractual duty to maximize total revenue to the league and the players each season.

On March 3, 2011, United States District Judge Doty, who is expert in NFL-related matters and has handled league/player disputes for roughly twenty years, issued an order agreeing with the players' contention. Judge Doty explained: "The NFL sought to renegotiate broadcast contracts to ensure revenue for